

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/030,460

Examiner

John D. Lee

Applicant(s)

MENDLOVIC ET AL

Art Unit

2874

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment submitted on August 23, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-45.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 28 May 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

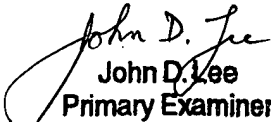
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 0404
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.


John D. Lee
Primary Examiner

EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance: After an updated search, the previously relied upon European Patent of Texas Instruments Inc. remains the closest prior art of record. Of the claims previously rejected as unpatentable over the European Patent, applicant has amended the independent claims to recite that the plurality of light sources are linear light sources which each have a longitudinal surface from which light is emitted (as shown in Figure 1A of the present application). The linear light sources (waveguides **80**) in the reference clearly cannot meet this limitation and there is no reason why a person of ordinary skill in the art would find it obvious to modify the light sources of the reference. The rejection is thus withdrawn and claims 1-41 herein are allowed. Claims 42-45 remain allowable for the reasons set forth in the previous Office action.

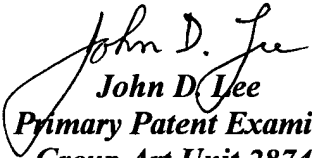
Applicant's correction of all informalities is noted and appreciated. With respect to the Israeli priority document, after a careful scrutiny of all the papers in the present application, it appears that a copy of the certified copy of the Israeli application was, indeed, properly forwarded from the International Bureau. There is no issue, therefore, regarding applicant's entitlement to the priority date of May 3, 2000.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

DISCUSSION OF THE CITED PRIOR ART

All of the prior art documents submitted by applicant in the Second Supplementary Information Disclosure Statement filed on April 1, 2004, have been considered and made of record. Note the attached initialed copy of form PTO-1449. The cited U.S. Patents have all been reviewed and found to have no negative impact on the patentability of claims 1-45 herein. The patentably distinguishing features of the claims, discussed above and in the previous Office action, are neither disclosed nor rendered obvious by any of these cited U.S. Patents.

Any inquiry concerning the merits of this communication should be directed to Examiner John D. Lee at telephone number (571) 272-2351. The Examiner's normal work schedule is Tuesday through Friday, 6:30 AM to 5:00 PM. Any inquiry of a general or clerical nature (i.e. a request for a missing form or paper, etc.) should be directed to the Technology Center 2800 receptionist at telephone number (571) 272-1562, to the technical support staff supervisor (Team 8) at telephone number (571) 272-1564, or to the Technology Center 2800 Customer Service Office at telephone number (571) 272-1626.


John D. Lee
Primary Patent Examiner
Group Art Unit 2874